

August 13, 2020

The August 13, 2020 virtual meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was conducted via Zoom and began at 7:36 p.m. Participating were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell and Ruth Panté. Dawn Smith, Marin Martin and Township Committeeman Glenn McGuinness were excused. Not responding to the invitation were Jim McMekin, Kathie Todd, Glenn Todd and Township Committee liaison representative Desiree Dillon. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission members Kathie Todd and Glenn Todd have not attended a meeting since January, although both were excused for February. The Township Clerk has offered to send a letter to each of them to learn their interest in remaining as a member of the Environmental Commission.

Marin Martin has tendered her resignation from the Commission due to family obligations at this time. Her resignation will be sent to the Township Committee. The Township Clerk cannot advertise an open position until after the acceptance of the resignation by the Township Committee. The Clerk reported that in the past all positions have been filled with interested persons.

Minutes

The minutes could not be voted on for lack of a quorum; this will be addressed at the September meeting. Mr. Tarlowe and Mr. Jewell have reviewed the minutes and found no corrections needed.

Cafferata Park

The Township Committee has approved a resolution for funding the trail improvements at the park, an amount not to exceed \$550. Mr. Tarlowe spoke with John Snyder, and Mr. Jewell and Mr. Snyder will be working together to complete the work. Invoices are to be submitted from the Public Works Department for the purchase of materials. Mr. Jewell and his sons will use their equipment to spread the stones; this will probably be delayed until September when the weather will be cooler.

Salem Oak Seedling

Mr. Tarlowe has spoken with John Snyder who offered help with the seedling. Stakes and markers will be used to protect the seedling. Mowing is done by a contractor; mulch or chips can be placed around the tree to keep the lawn mowers away. Mr. Tarlowe was informed by the nursery that the seedlings will not be distributed until September or possibly October. Mansfield's seedling will be planted in the area behind the baseball backstop at the recreation field.

Bluebird Trail

Ms. Smith was not present for this meeting, so no report was available at this time.

Land Use Board

Mr. Jewell reported the last meeting was a public hearing of the application for a building variance on a one-acre lot on Blau Road that was subdivided in 1991. This is a three-acre zone, the property is less than required, and no neighbors want to sell to the owner who is a Hackettstown resident. The variance was approved; a resolution will be done at the next meeting.

Environmental Issues

Mr. Jewell reported Hunterdon County has reported a major influx of the Spotted Lantern Fly, an invasive insect; he found one near his home and destroyed it. Up to 70 species of trees can be attacked

by this invasive insect; destroying egg masses is urged; eggs will be laid in September. Members discussed invasive plants and insects.

Green Team Report

Ms. Fascenelli reported the Green Team is currently working on their Township scavenger hunt, and plans for a calendar is in the works using the photographs from the photo contest conducted in 2018.

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:
September 10, 2020**